

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BARTOW COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING THE CODE OF BARTOW COUNTY, CHAPTER 34 - ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE VIII, THE BARTOW COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, TO DELETE AND REPLACE SAID ARTICLE WITH NEW PROVISIONS**; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BARTOW COUNTY HELD ON THE 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

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**WHEREAS**, Bartow County, pursuant to State Law and model ordinances promulgated by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) and the State Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources (EPD) adopted its Stormwater Maintenance Ordinance on December 7, 2005, which has been amended from time to time; and

**WHEREAS**, the MNGWPD has adopted a new, updated model ordinance for Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment, and the State EPD is requiring the County, as a member of the District, to adopt said updated model ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner has determined it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to adopt the new model ordinance and make amendments to address matters not properly regulated in the existing Stormwater Management Ordinance including making changes to definitions and uses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner has determined that the proposed amendment to the Stormwater Management Ordinance serves such purposes and benefits the public health, safety and welfare;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED**, by virtue of the authority vested in the Commissioner by law, that the Code of Bartow County, Article VIII, Chapter 34, Stormwater Management Ordinance, is deleted and replaced by the following new Article VIII:

1.

**Article VIII. Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment.**

Sec. 34-551 – Title. This article shall be known as the Bartow County Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinance.

Sec. 34-552 – Purpose and Intent. The purpose of this article is to protect, maintain and enhance the public health, safety, environment and general welfare by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of increased post-construction stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution associated with new

development and redevelopment. Proper management of post- construction stormwater runoff will minimize damage to public and private property and infrastructure, safeguard the public health, safety, environment and general welfare of the public, and protect water and aquatic resources. Additionally, Bartow County is required to comply with several State and Federal laws, regulations and permits and the requirements of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's regional water plan related to managing the water quantity, velocity, and quality of post- construction stormwater runoff.

Section 34-553. Definitions. For this Article, the terms below shall have the following meanings:

“administrator” means the person appointed to administer and implement this Article on Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment in accordance with Section 34-555.

“applicant” means a person submitting a land development application for approval.

“BMP” or “best management practice” means both structural devices to store or treat stormwater runoff and non-structural programs or practices which are designed to prevent or reduce the pollution of the waters of the State of Georgia.

“BMP landscaping plan” means a design for vegetation and landscaping that is critical to the performance and function of the BMP including how the BMP will be stabilized and established with vegetation. It shall include a layout of plants and plant names (local and scientific).

“channel” means a natural or artificial watercourse with a definite bed and banks that conveys continuously or periodically flowing water.

“detention” means the temporary storage of stormwater runoff in a stormwater detention facility for the purpose of controlling the peak discharge.

“detention facility” means a structure designed for the storage and gradual release of stormwater runoff at controlled rates.

“development” means new development or redevelopment.

“extended detention” means the storage of stormwater runoff for an extended period of time.

“extreme flood protection” means measures taken to prevent adverse impacts from large low-frequency storm events with a return frequency of 100 years or more.

“flooding” means a volume of surface water that exceeds the banks or walls of a BMP, or channel; and overflows onto adjacent lands.

“GSMM” means the latest edition of the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, Volume 2: Technical Handbook, and its Appendices.

“hotspot” means a land use or activity on a site that has the potential to produce higher than normally found levels of pollutants in stormwater runoff. As defined by the administrator, hotspot land use may include gasoline stations, vehicle service and maintenance areas, industrial facilities (both permitted under the Industrial Stormwater General Permit and others), material storage sites, garbage transfer facilities, and commercial parking lots with high-intensity use.

“impervious surface” means a surface composed of any material that significantly impedes or prevents the natural infiltration of water into the soil.

“Industrial Stormwater General Permit” means the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by Georgia Environmental Protection Division to an industry for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity. The permit regulates pollutant levels associated with industrial stormwater discharges or specifies on-site pollution control strategies based on Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code.

“infiltration” means the process of percolating stormwater runoff into the subsoil.

“inspection and maintenance agreement” means a written agreement providing for the long-term inspection, operation, and maintenance of the stormwater management system and its components on a site.

“land development application” means the application for a land development permit on a form provided by Bartow County along with the supporting documentation required in Section 34-561(a).

“land development permit” means the authorization necessary to begin construction-related, land-disturbing activity

“land disturbing activity” means any activity which may result in soil erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediments into state water or onto lands within the state, including but not limited to clearing, dredging, grading, excavating, and filling of land. Land disturbing activity does not include agricultural practices as described O.C.G.A. 12-7-17(5) or silvicultural land management activities as described O.C.G.A. 12-7-17(6) within areas zoned for these activities.

“MS4 Permit” means the NPDES permit issued by Georgia Environmental Protection Division for discharges from the Bartow County’s municipal separate storm sewer system.

“new development” means land disturbing activities, structural development (construction, installation or expansion of a building or other structure), and/or creation of impervious surfaces on a previously undeveloped site.

“nonpoint source pollution” means a form of water pollution that does not originate from a discrete point such as a wastewater treatment facility or industrial discharge, but involves the transport of pollutants such as sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals, oil, grease, bacteria, organic materials and other contaminants from land to surface water or groundwater via mechanisms such as precipitation, stormwater runoff, and leaching. Nonpoint source pollution is a by-product of land use practices such as agricultural, silvicultural, mining, construction, subsurface disposal and urban runoff sources.

“overbank flood protection” means measures taken to prevent an increase in the frequency and magnitude of out-of-bank flooding (i.e. flow events that exceed the capacity of the channel and enter the floodplain).

“owner” means the legal or beneficial owner of a site, including but not limited to, a mortgagee or vendee in possession, receiver, executor, trustee, lessee or other person, firm or corporation in control of the site.

“person” means any individual, partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, utility, cooperative, city, county or other political subdivision of the State, any interstate body or any other legal entity.

“post-construction stormwater management” means stormwater best management practices that are used on a permanent basis to control and treat runoff once construction has been completed in accordance with a stormwater management plan.

“post-development” means the conditions anticipated to exist on site immediately after completion of the proposed development.

“practicability policy” means the latest edition of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District’s Policy on Practicability Analysis for Runoff Reduction.

“pre-development” means the conditions that exist on a site immediately before the implementation of the proposed development. Where phased development or plan approval occurs (preliminary grading, roads and utilities, etc.), the existing conditions at the time before the first item being approved or permitted shall establish pre-development conditions.

“pre-development hydrology” means (a) for new development, the runoff curve number determined using natural conditions hydrologic analysis based on the natural, undisturbed condition of the site immediately before implementation of the proposed development; and (b) for redevelopment, the existing conditions hydrograph may take into account the existing development when defining the runoff curve number and calculating existing runoff, unless the existing development causes a negative impact on downstream property.

“previously developed site” means a site that has been altered by paving, construction, and/or land disturbing activity.

“redevelopment” means structural development (construction, installation, or expansion of a building or other structure), creation or addition of impervious surfaces, replacement of impervious surfaces not as part of routine maintenance, and land disturbing activities associated with structural or impervious development on a previously developed site. Redevelopment does not include such activities as exterior remodeling.

“routine maintenance” means activities to keep an impervious surface as near as possible to its constructed condition. This includes ordinary maintenance activities, resurfacing paved areas, and exterior building changes or improvements which do not materially increase or concentrate stormwater runoff, or cause additional nonpoint source pollution.

“runoff” means stormwater runoff.

“site” means an area of land where development is planned, which may include all or portions of one or more parcels of land. For subdivisions and other common plans of development, the site includes all areas of land covered under an applicable land development permit.

“stormwater concept plan” means an initial plan for post-construction stormwater management at the site that provides the groundwork for the stormwater management plan including the natural resources inventory, site layout concept, initial runoff characterization, and first round stormwater management system design.

“stormwater management plan” means a plan for post-construction stormwater management at the site that meets the requirements of Section 34-559 and is included as part of the land development application.

“stormwater management standards” means those standards set forth in Section 34-558.

“stormwater management system” means the entire set of non-structural site design features and structural BMPs for collection, conveyance, storage, infiltration, treatment, and disposal of stormwater runoff in a manner designed to prevent increased flood damage, streambank channel erosion, habitat degradation and water quality degradation, and to enhance and promote the public health, safety and general welfare.

“stormwater runoff” means flow on the surface of the ground, resulting from precipitation.

“subdivision” means the division of a tract or parcel of land resulting in one or more new lots or building sites for the purpose, whether immediately or in the future, of sale, other transfer of ownership or land development, and includes divisions of land resulting from or made in connection with the layout or development of a new street or roadway or a change in an existing street or roadway.

“trout stream” means waters designated by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as Primary Trout Waters or Secondary Trout Streams. Primary Trout Waters are waters supporting a self-sustaining population of Rainbow, Brown or Brook Trout. Secondary Trout Streams are those with no evidence of natural trout reproduction but are capable of supporting trout throughout the year.

Other terms used but not defined in this Article shall be interpreted based on how such terms are defined and used in the GSMM and Bartow County’s MS4 permit.

Section 34-554. Adoption and Implementation of the GSMM; Conflicts and Inconsistencies.

(a) In implementing this Article, Bartow County shall use and require compliance with all relevant design standards, calculations, formulas, methods, and other guidance from the GSMM as well as all related appendices.

(b) This Article is not intended to modify or repeal any other Article, ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law, including but not limited to any applicable stream buffers under state and local laws, and the Georgia Safe Dams Act and Rules for Dam Safety. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between any provision in Bartow County’s MS4 permit and this Article, the provision from the MS4 permit shall control. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between any provision of this Article and the GSMM, the provision from this Article shall control. In the event of any other conflict or inconsistency between any provision of this Article and any other ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law, the provision that is more restrictive or imposes higher protective standards for human health or the environment shall control.

(c) If any provision of this Article is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of this Article.

Section 34-555. Designation of Administrator. The County Engineer is to administer and implement this Article.

Section 34-556. Applicability Criteria for Stormwater Management Standards. This Article applies to the following activities:

(a) New development that creates or adds 5,000 square feet or greater of new impervious surface area or that involves land disturbing activity of 1 acre of land or greater;

(b) Redevelopment (excluding routine maintenance and exterior remodeling) that creates, adds, or replaces 5,000 square feet or greater of new impervious surface area or that involves land disturbing activity of 1 acre or more;

- (c) New development and redevelopment if
  - (i) such new development or redevelopment is part of a subdivision or other common plan of development, and
  - (ii) the sum of all associated impervious surface area or land disturbing activities that are being developed as part of such subdivision or other common plan of development meets or exceeds the threshold in (a) and (b) above;
- (d) Any commercial or industrial new development or redevelopment, regardless of size, that is a hotspot land use as defined in this Article; and

Section 34-557. Exemptions from Stormwater Management Standards. This Article does not apply to the following activities:

- (a) Land disturbing activity conducted by local, state, authority, or federal agencies, solely to respond to an emergency need to protect life, limb, or property or conduct emergency repairs;
- (b) Land disturbing activity that consists solely of cutting a trench for utility work and related pavement replacement;
- (c) Land disturbing activity conducted by local, state, authority, or federal agencies, whose sole purpose is to implement stormwater management or environmental restoration;
- (d) Repairs to any stormwater management system deemed necessary by the county engineer;
- (e) Agricultural practices as described O.C.G.A. 12-7-17(5) within areas zoned for these activities with the exception of buildings or permanent structures that exceed the threshold in 34-556 (a) or (b);
- (f) Silvicultural land management activities as described O.C.G.A. 12-7-17(6) within areas zoned for these activities with the exception of buildings or permanent structures that exceed the threshold in 34-556 (a) or (b);
- (g) Installations or modifications to existing structures solely to implement Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, including but not limited to elevator shafts, handicapped access ramps and parking, and enlarged entrances or exits; and
- (h) Individual single-family or duplex residential lots that are not part of a subdivision or phased development project or governed by the preceding stormwater ordinances when the lot was platted.

- (i) A-1 district lots five (5) acres or greater in size upon approval of the county engineer;
- (j) Additions or modifications to existing single-family or duplex residential structures.

Section 34-558. Stormwater Management Standards. Subject to the applicability criteria in Section 34-556 and exemptions in Section 34-557, the following stormwater management standards apply. Additional details for each standard can be found in the GSMM Section 2.2.2.2:

- (a) Design of Stormwater Management System: The design of the stormwater management system shall be in accordance with the applicable sections of the GSMM as directed by the administrator. Any design which proposes a dam shall comply with the Georgia Safe Dams Act and Rules for Dam Safety as applicable.
- (b) Natural Resources Inventory: Site reconnaissance and surveying techniques shall be used to complete a thorough assessment of existing natural resources, both terrestrial and aquatic, found on the site. Resources to be identified, mapped, and shown on the Stormwater Management Plan, shall include, at a minimum (as applicable):
  - (i) Topography (minimum of 2-foot contours) and Steep Slopes (i.e., Areas with Slopes Greater Than 15%),
  - (ii) Natural Drainage Divides and Patterns,
  - (iii) Natural Drainage Features (e.g., swales, basins, depressional areas),
  - (iv) Natural feature protection and conservation areas such as wetlands, lakes, ponds, floodplains, stream buffers, drinking water wellhead protection areas and river corridors,
  - (v) Predominant soils (including erodible soils and karst areas), and
  - (vi) Existing predominant vegetation including trees, high quality habitat and other existing vegetation.
- (c) Better Site Design Practices for Stormwater Management: Stormwater management plans shall preserve the natural drainage and natural treatment systems and reduce the generation of additional stormwater runoff and pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. Additional details can be found in the GSMM Section 2.3.
- (d) Stormwater Runoff Quality/Reduction: Stormwater Runoff Quality/Reduction shall be provided by using the following:
  - (i) For development with a stormwater management plan submitted before August 5, 2021, the applicant may choose either (A) Runoff Reduction or (B) Water Quality.



(ii) For development with a stormwater management plan submitted on or after August 5, 2021, the applicant shall choose (A) Runoff Reduction and additional water quality shall not be required. To the extent (A) Runoff Reduction has been determined to be infeasible for all or a portion of the site using the Practicability Policy, then (B) Water Quality shall apply for the remaining runoff from a 1.2 inch rainfall event and must be treated to remove at least 80% of the calculated average annual post-development total suspended solids (TSS) load or equivalent as defined in the GSMM.

(A) Runoff Reduction - The stormwater management system shall be designed to retain the first 1.0 inch of rainfall on the site using runoff reduction methods, to the maximum extent practicable.

(B) Water Quality – The stormwater management system shall be designed to remove at least 80% of the calculated average annual post-development total suspended solids (TSS) load or equivalent as defined in the GSMM for runoff from a 1.2-inch rainfall event.

(iii) If a site is determined to be a hotspot as detailed in Section 34-556, Bartow County may require the use of specific or additional components for the stormwater management system to address pollutants of concern generated by that site.

(e) Stream Channel Protection: Stream channel protection shall be provided by using all of the following three approaches:

(i) 24-hour extended detention storage of the 1-year, 24-hour return frequency storm event;

(ii) Erosion prevention measures, such as energy dissipation and velocity control; and

(iii) Preservation of any applicable stream buffer.

(f) Overbank Flood Protection: Downstream overbank flood protection shall be provided by controlling the post-development peak discharge rate to the pre-development rate for the 25-year, 24-hour storm event.

(g) Extreme Flood Protection: Extreme flood protection shall be provided by controlling the 100-year, 24-hour storm event such that flooding is not exacerbated.

(h) Trout Stream Protection: Trout stream protection shall be provided by controlling temperature for receiving waters with trout stream designation. In streams designated as primary trout waters by the Wildlife Resources Division, there shall be no elevation of natural stream temperatures. In streams designated as secondary trout waters, there shall be no elevation exceeding 2°F of natural stream temperatures.

- (i) Downstream Analysis: Due to peak flow timing and runoff volume effects, some structural components of the stormwater management system fail to reduce discharge peaks to pre-development levels downstream from the site. A downstream peak flow analysis shall be provided to the point in the watershed downstream of the site or the stormwater management system where the area of the site comprises 10% of the total drainage area in accordance with Section 3.1.9 of the GSMM. This is to help ensure that there are minimal downstream impacts from development on the site. The downstream analysis may result in the need to resize structural components of the stormwater management system.
- (j) Stormwater Management System Inspection and Maintenance: The components of the stormwater management system that will not be dedicated to and accepted by Bartow County, including all drainage facilities, best management practices, credited conservation spaces, and conveyance systems, shall have an inspection and maintenance agreement to ensure that they continue to function as designed. All new development and redevelopment sites are to prepare a comprehensive inspection and maintenance agreement for the on-site stormwater management system. This plan shall be written in accordance with the requirements in Section 34-568.

Section 34-559. Pre-Submittal Meeting, Stormwater Concept Plan, and Stormwater Management Plan Requirements.

- (a) Before a land development permit application is submitted, an applicant may request a pre-submittal meeting with Bartow County. The pre-submittal meeting should take place based on an early step in the development process such as before site analysis and inventory (GSMM Section 2.4.2.4) or the stormwater concept plan (GSMM Section 2.4.2.5). The purpose of the pre-submittal meeting is to discuss opportunities, constraints, and ideas for the stormwater management system before formal site design engineering. To the extent applicable, local and regional watershed plans, greenspace plans, trails and greenway plans, and other resource protection plans should be consulted in the pre-submittal meeting. Applicants must request a pre-submittal meeting with Bartow County when applying for a Determination of Infeasibility through the Practicability Policy.
- (b) The stormwater concept plan shall be prepared using the minimum following steps:
  - (i) Develop the site layout using better site design techniques, as applicable (GSMM Section 2.3).
  - (ii) Calculate preliminary estimates of the unified stormwater sizing criteria requirements for stormwater runoff quality/reduction, channel protection, overbank flooding protection and extreme flood protection (GSMM Section 2.2).

- (iii) Perform screening and preliminary selection of appropriate best management practices and identification of potential siting locations (GSMM Section 4.1).
- (c) The stormwater concept plan shall contain:
- (i) Common address and legal description of the site,
  - (ii) Vicinity map, and
  - (iii) Existing conditions and proposed site layout mapping and plans (recommended scale of 1" = 50'), which illustrate at a minimum:
    - (A) Existing and proposed topography (minimum of 2-foot contours),
    - (B) Perennial and intermittent streams,
    - (C) Mapping of predominant soils from USDA soil surveys,
    - (D) Boundaries of existing predominant vegetation and proposed limits of clearing and grading,
    - (E) Location and boundaries of other natural feature protection and conservation areas such as wetlands, lakes, ponds, floodplains, stream buffers and other setbacks (e.g., drinking water well setbacks, septic setbacks, etc.),
    - (F) Location of existing and proposed roads, buildings, parking areas and other impervious surfaces,
    - (G) Existing and proposed utilities (e.g., water, sewer, gas, electric) and easements,
    - (H) Preliminary estimates of unified stormwater sizing criteria requirements,
    - (I) Preliminary selection and location, size, and limits of disturbance of proposed BMPs,
    - (J) Location of existing and proposed conveyance systems such as grass channels, swales, and storm drains,
    - (K) Flow paths,

(L) Location of the boundaries of the base flood floodplain, future-conditions floodplain, and the floodway (as applicable) and relationship of site to upstream and downstream properties and drainage, and

(M) Preliminary location and dimensions of proposed channel modifications, such as bridge or culvert crossings.

(d) The stormwater management plan shall contain the items listed in this part and be prepared under the direct supervisory control of either a registered Professional Engineer or a registered Landscape Architect licensed in the state of Georgia. Items (iii), (iv), (v), and (vi) shall be sealed and signed by a registered Professional Engineer licensed in the state of Georgia. The overall site plan must be stamped by a design professional licensed in the State of Georgia for such purpose. (GSMM Section 2.4.2.7)

- (i) Natural Resources Inventory
- (ii) Stormwater Concept Plan
- (iii) Existing Conditions Hydrologic Analysis
- (iv) Post-Development Hydrologic Analysis
- (v) Stormwater Management System
- (vi) Downstream Analysis
- (vii) Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan
- (viii) BMP Landscaping Plan
- (ix) Inspection and Maintenance Agreement
- (x) Evidence of Acquisition of Applicable Local and Non-Local Permits
- (xi) Determination of Infeasibility (if applicable)
- (xii) Performance Bonds

Bartow County may require the developer to post a surety in the form of a bond or irrevocable letter of credit, acceptable to the county, prior to the issuance of any land disturbance permit for the construction of a development requiring a stormwater management system, or prior to a final plat in certain situations. The amount of the security shall not be less than the total estimated construction cost of the stormwater management system. The bond required in this section shall include provisions relative to forfeiture for failure to

complete work specified in the approved stormwater management plan, compliance with all the provisions of this ordinance, other applicable laws and regulations, and any time limitations.

The bond shall not be fully released without a final inspection of the completed work by the Bartow County Engineering Department, submission of “as-built” plans, a signed maintenance agreement, and a certification of completion by a design engineer that the stormwater management system complies with the approved plan and provisions of this ordinance.

(e) For redevelopment and to the extent existing stormwater management structures are being used to meet stormwater management standards the following must also be included in the stormwater management plan for existing stormwater management structures

- (i) As-built Drawings
- (ii) Hydrology Reports
- (iii) Current inspection of existing stormwater management structures with deficiencies noted
- (iv) BMP Landscaping Plans

Section 34-560. Application Fee. The fee for review of any land development application shall be based on the fee structure established by Bartow County, and payment shall be made before the issuance of any land disturbance permit or building permit for the development.

Section 34-561. Application Procedures. Land development applications are handled as part of the process to obtain the land disturbance permit or building permit pursuant to Chapter 34 and/or Chapter 18 of the Bartow County Code of Ordinance, as applicable. Before any person begins development on a site, the owner of the site shall first obtain approval in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) File a land development application with the Bartow County on the Bartow County’s form of application with the following supporting materials:
  - (i) the stormwater management plan prepared in accordance with Section 34-559,
  - (ii) a certification that the development will be performed in accordance with the stormwater management plan once approved,

(iii) a Runoff Reduction Infeasibility (RRI) Form for Determination of Infeasibility, and

(iv) an acknowledgement that applicant has reviewed Bartow County's form of inspection and maintenance agreement and that applicant agrees to sign and record such inspection and maintenance agreement before the final inspection.

(b) The administrator shall inform the applicant whether the application and supporting materials are approved or disapproved.

(c) If the application or supporting materials are disapproved, the administrator shall notify the applicant of such fact in writing. The applicant may then revise any item not meeting the requirements hereof and resubmit the same for the administrator to again consider and either approve or disapprove.

(d) If the application and supporting materials are approved, Bartow County may issue the associated land disturbance permit or building permit, provided all other legal requirements for the issuance of such permits have been met. The stormwater management plan included in such applications becomes the approved stormwater management plan.

Section 34-562. Compliance with the Approved Stormwater Management Plan. All development shall be:

(a) consistent with the approved stormwater management plan and all applicable land disturbance and building permits, and

(b) conducted only within the area specified in the approved stormwater management plan.

No changes may be made to an approved stormwater management plan without review and advanced written approval by the administrator.

Section 34-563. Inspections to Ensure Plan Compliance During Construction. Periodic inspections of the stormwater management system during construction shall be conducted by the staff of Bartow County or conducted and certified by a professional engineer who has been approved by Bartow County. Inspections shall use the approved stormwater management plan for establishing compliance. All inspections shall be documented with written reports that contain the following information:

(a) The date and location of the inspection;

(b) Whether the stormwater management system is in compliance with the approved stormwater management plan;

- (c) Variations from the approved stormwater management plan; and
- (d) Any other variations or violations of the conditions of the approved stormwater management plan.

Section 34-564. Final Inspection; As-Built Drawings; Delivery of Inspection and Maintenance Agreement. Upon completion of the development, the applicant is responsible for:

- (a) Certifying that the stormwater management system is functioning properly and was constructed in conformance with the approved stormwater management plan and associated hydrologic analysis,
- (b) Submitting as-built drawings showing the final design specifications for all components of the stormwater management system as certified by a professional engineer,
- (c) Certifying that the landscaping is established and installed in conformance with the BMP landscaping plan, and
- (d) Delivering to Bartow County a signed inspection and maintenance agreement that has been recorded by the owner in the property record for all parcel(s) that make up the site.

The required certification under part (a) shall include a certification of volume, or other performance test applicable to the type of stormwater management system component, to ensure each component is functioning as designed and built according to the design specifications in the approved stormwater management plan. This certification and the required performance tests shall be performed by a qualified person and submitted to Bartow County with the request for a final inspection. Bartow County shall perform a final inspection with applicant to confirm applicant has fulfilled these responsibilities.

Section 34-565. Violations and Enforcement. Any violation of the approved stormwater management plan during construction, failure to submit as-built drawings, failure to submit a final BMP landscaping plan, or failure of the final inspection shall constitute and be addressed as violations of, or failures to comply with, the underlying land disturbance permit pursuant to Chapter 34 and/or Appendix B of the Bartow County Code of Ordinances, as appropriate. To address a violation of this Article, Bartow County shall have all the powers and remedies that are available to it for other violations of building and land disturbance permits, including without limitation the right to issue notices and orders to ensure compliance, stop work orders, and penalties as set forth in the applicable ordinances for such permits.

(a) Any action or inaction which violates the provisions of this article, or the requirements of an approved stormwater management plan or permit may be subject to the enforcement actions outlined in this section. Any such action or inaction which is continuous with respect to time is deemed to be a public nuisance and may be abated by

injunctive or other equitable relief. The imposition of any of the penalties described below shall not prevent such equitable relief. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this article. Actions may be filed in superior court to seek injunctive relief, and to seek fines up to \$1,000.00 per day per violation, and to seek costs of abatement, and attorney's fees and costs for bringing the action. Citations for ordinance violations and actions for abatement of nuisance actions may alternatively be filed in Magistrate Court. In the event of serious violations or emergency situations, a court proceeding may be filed without a formal notice of violation being filed first.

- (1) *Notice of violation.* If Bartow County determines that an applicant or other responsible person has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of a permit, an approved stormwater management plan or the provisions of this article, it shall issue a written notice of violation to such applicant or other responsible person. Where a person is engaged in activity covered by this article without having first secured a permit therefore, the notice of violation shall be served on the owner or the responsible person in charge of the activity being conducted on the site. The notice of violation should contain:
  - a. The name and address of the owner or the applicant or the responsible person;
  - b. The address or other description of the site upon which the violation is occurring;
  - c. A statement specifying the nature of the violation;
  - d. A description of the remedial measures necessary to bring the action or inaction into compliance with the permit, the stormwater management plan or this article and the date for the completion of such remedial action;
  - e. A statement of the penalty or penalties that may be assessed against the person to whom the notice of violation is directed; and
  - f. A requirement for payment of civil fines.

Sec. 34-566. - Additional enforcement actions; penalties.

In the event the remedial measures described in the notice of violation have not been completed by the date set forth for such completion in the notice of violation, any one or more of the following actions or penalties may be taken or assessed against the person to whom the notice of violation was directed. The following actions may be taken after a notice of violation has been issued or may be taken without a notice of violation first being issued, as is appropriate in the judgment of the officials of the engineering department to achieve the purposes of this article and protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

- (1) *Stop-work order.* The department may issue a stop-work order which shall be served on the applicant or other responsible person. A stop-work order may be issued after a notice of violation or may be issued in conjunction with a notice of violation. The stop-work order shall remain in effect until the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth indicated in the order or notice of violation or has otherwise cured the violation or violations described therein.



- a. Stop-work orders shall affect all work being done on a project or development (including work done on other lots in the subdivision owned by the same violator). Stop-work orders stop not only the work in violation, but all other work by contractors or sub-contractors on the same property. Only work to remedy the deficiency shall be allowed until the stop-work order is lifted.
  - b. A stop-work order shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, his authorized agent or the person or persons in charge of the activity on the property, and shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed. Where an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist, no written notice shall be required, and a verbal stop-work order may be issued, with a written order to be provided within three working days.
  - c. Stop-work orders may be issued on their own, or in conjunction with criminal citations, or civil proceedings in superior court.
- (2) *Withhold building permits or certificate of occupancy.* The engineering department may advise the building inspections department to refuse to issue building permits or certificates of occupancy for the buildings or other improvements constructed or being constructed on the site until the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise cured the violations described therein.
- (3) *Suspension, revocation, or modification of permit.* The department may suspend, revoke or modify the permit authorizing the land development project. A suspended, revoked or modified permit may be reinstated after the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise cured the violations described therein, provided such permit may be reinstated, upon such conditions as the department may deem necessary, to enable the applicant or other responsible person to take the necessary remedial measures to cure such violations.
- (4) *Civil penalties.* In the event the applicant or other responsible person fails to take the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or otherwise fails to cure the violations described therein within ten days, or such shorter or longer period as the department shall deem appropriate depending on the severity of the situation (at a minimum 24 hours unless the situation is a severe emergency), the department may impose a penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00 (depending on the severity of the violation) for each day the violation remains unremedied after receipt of the notice of violation. If unpaid, the county may seek enforcement of such penalties in superior or magistrate court. Civil fines may also be sought in actions filed in superior court for injunctive relief, whether or not a notice of violation was issued.
- (5) *Criminal penalties.* In addition to, or in lieu of, any of the above actions, the department may issue a citation to the applicant or other responsible person, requiring such person to appear in magistrate or superior court to answer charges for such violation. Upon conviction, such person shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for 60 days or both. Each act of violation and each day upon which any violation shall occur shall constitute a separate offense.

The minimum fine for a violation of this article shall be \$500.00. Such fines may be sought in connection with an action for injunctive relief in superior court. All persons involved in the violation, including land owners, developers, responsible parties, and persons actually conducting the activity, may be cited with violations of this article. Citations may be issued in conjunction with notices of violation and/or stop-work orders, but a notice of violation need not be issued prior to issuance of a citation.

- (6) *Emergency enforcement.* In the event an emergency is of such immediacy and danger that giving a 24 hours' notice of violation would threaten the public health, safety and welfare, the county is authorized to enter upon the subject private property, without giving prior notice, to take any and all measures necessary to abate the violation and correct the situation. It shall be unlawful for any person, owner, agent or person in possession of any premises to refuse to allow the government agency or designated contractor to enter upon the premises for the purposes set forth above. The county shall be authorized to recover costs of the abatement from the property owner or responsible parties.
- (7) *Remedies not exclusive.* The remedies listed in this article are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local law and the county may seek cumulative remedies.

In any action brought in magistrate or superior court to enforce this article, the county shall be entitled to recover attorney's fees, court costs, and other expenses associated with enforcement of this article, including sampling and monitoring expenses.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this article shall become liable to the county by reason of such violation.

Section 34-567. Maintenance by Owner of Stormwater Management Systems Predating Current GSMM. For any stormwater management systems approved and built based on requirements predating the current GSMM and that is not otherwise subject to an inspection and maintenance agreement, such stormwater management systems shall be maintained by the owner so that the stormwater management systems perform as they were originally designed.

Section 34-568. Inspection and Maintenance Agreements.

- (a) The owner shall execute an inspection and maintenance agreement with Bartow County obligating the owner to inspect, clean, maintain, and repair the stormwater management system; including vegetation in the final BMP landscaping plan. The form of the inspection and maintenance agreement shall be the form provided by Bartow County. After the inspection and maintenance agreement has been signed by the owner and Bartow County, the owner shall promptly record such agreement at the owner's cost in the property record for all parcel(s) that make up the site.

(b) The inspection and maintenance agreement shall identify by name or official title the person(s) serving as the point of contact for carrying out the owner's obligations under the inspection and maintenance agreement. The owner shall update the point of contact from time to time as needed and upon request by the Bartow County. Upon any sale or transfer of the site, the new owner shall notify the Bartow County in writing within 30 days of the name or official title of new person(s) serving as the point of contact for the new owner. Any failure of an owner to keep the point of contact up to date shall, following 30 days' notice, constitute a failure to maintain the stormwater management system.

(c) The inspection and maintenance agreement shall run with the land and bind all future successors-in-title of the site. If there is a future sale or transfer of only a portion of the site, then:

(i) The parties to such sale or transfer may enter into and record an assignment agreement designating the owner responsible for each portion of the site and associated obligations under the inspection and maintenance agreement. The parties shall record and provide written notice and a copy of such assignment agreement to Bartow County.

(ii) In the absence of a recorded assignment agreement, all owners of the site shall be jointly and severally liable for all obligations under the inspection and maintenance agreement regardless of what portion of the site they own.

Section 34-569. Right of Entry for Maintenance Inspections. The terms of the inspection and maintenance agreement shall provide for the Bartow County's right of entry for maintenance inspections and other specified purposes. If a site was developed before the requirement to have an inspection and maintenance agreement or an inspection and maintenance agreement was for any reason not entered into, recorded, or has otherwise been invalidated or deemed insufficient, then Bartow County shall have the right to enter and make inspections pursuant to the Bartow County's general provisions for property maintenance inspections pursuant to the International Property Maintenance Code as adopted by the Bartow County and referenced in Chapter 18 of the Bartow County Code of Ordinances.

Section 34-570. Owner's Failure to Maintain the Stormwater Management System. The terms of the inspection and maintenance agreement shall provide for what constitutes a failure to maintain a stormwater management system and the enforcement options available to Bartow County. If a site was developed before the requirement to have an inspection and maintenance agreement or an inspection and maintenance agreement was for any reason not entered into, recorded, or has otherwise been invalidated or deemed insufficient, then:

(a) An owner's failure to maintain the stormwater management system so that it performs as it was originally designed shall constitute and be addressed as a

violation of, or failure to comply with, owner's property maintenance obligations pursuant to International Property Maintenance Code as adopted by Bartow County and referenced in Chapter 18 of the Bartow County Code of Ordinances; and

(b) To address such a failure to maintain the stormwater management system, Bartow County shall have all the powers and remedies that are available to it for other violations of an owner's property maintenance obligations, including without limitation prosecution, penalties, abatement, and emergency measures.

Section 34-571. Effective Date. This Ordinance is effective August 4, 2021. For developments where the stormwater management plan (not the land disturbance permit or preliminary site plan) was approved prior to August 4, 2021, the prior Stormwater Management Ordinance shall continue to apply.

Section 34-572 to 34-700. Reserved.

2.

All other Ordinances and Resolutions, or parts of said Ordinances or resolutions, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, except to the extent said Ordinances are more restrictive than this Ordinance.

**SO ADOPTED** this 4th day of August, 2021, to be effective immediately, the public health, safety, and general welfare demanding.

ATTEST:

BARTOW COUNTY, GEORGIA

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Kathy Gill, Clerk

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Steve Taylor, Commissioner